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DE RUEHC #8141 3521830
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 7670
INFO RUEHBD/AMEMBASSY BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN 7004
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 9312
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 9856
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI 5696
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 8418
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 4608
RUEHPF/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH 6945
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 7360
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2092
RUEHVN/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2537

UNCLAS STATE 168141

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TBIO](#) [PTER](#) [MY](#) [AU](#) [JP](#)

SUBJECT: TRILATERAL CT APPROACH TO MALAYSIA/SEARCCT ON BIOTERRORISM PROGRAM

REF: STATE 156852

[1](#)1. (U) This is an Action Request. See paragraph 5.

[1](#)2. (U) In the follow-up from the successful October 23-25, 2007 U.S.-hosted Trilateral Counterterrorism (CT) Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Combating Bioterrorism, the Government of Australia (GOA) has proposed reaching out to Malaysia's Southeast Asia Regional Center for Counterterrorism (SEARCCT) as a possible host for the trilaterally-supported workshop to help build multi-sectoral capacity in Southeast Asia on combating bioterrorism (reftel). Australia has reported continued indications of solid support from the Government of Japan (GOJ), and GOA has proposed that the Australian, Japanese, and U.S. embassies in Kuala Lumpur cooperate on contacting Malaysia as the possible host of the proposed workshop (notional timeframe of March 2008). As noted in reftel, organizers at this point have not decided specifically which Southeast Asian nations will be invited to the workshop, although it will involve some mix, but possibly not all, of the Southeast Asian INFO posts on this cable.

[1](#)3. (U) As a central component of the initial trilateral CT work on combating bioterrorism, Australia, Japan and the U.S. propose to arrange jointly with Malaysia, through SEARCCT, a policy-focused workshop on combating bioterrorism for officials from Southeast Asian countries. The workshop will engage agencies in each country which are involved in developing and implementing prevention, preparedness, and response policies in order to better strengthen bioterrorism-related information sharing and cooperation between critical sectors such as foreign affairs, public health, law enforcement, agriculture, and intelligence.

[1](#)4. (U) In collaboration with Australia and Japan, the U.S. is prepared to support the workshop financially (with funds to cover travel-related expenses for participants from Southeast Asian nations and potentially some of the operational expenses of the workshop), as well as with USG expert speakers. Australia has also indicated that it will provide financial support, and Japan is exploring the possibility of financial support, as well; both countries will also likely provide expert speakers or workshop facilitators. Australia, Japan, and the U.S. hope that Malaysia, through SEARCCT, would serve as host for the workshop, providing the facilities, input on the format of the workshop, and possibly chair a workshop session.

[1](#)5. (U) ACTION REQUEST: Post will likely hear in the coming week from the Australian and/or Japanese embassies in Kuala Lumpur -- and Department requests that Post work with these trilateral CT partners in whatever way is most comfortable to reach out to the Government of Malaysia and help increase chances of Malaysian support for such a

workshop at SEARCCT in the first half of 2008. Please contact
Kimothy Smith or Marc Ostfield in the DOS Office of International
Health and Biodefense (OES/IHB) with any questions. END ACTION
REQUEST.
RICE